

have refused to take the few seats in parliament they were given. Though some governing party representatives have claimed that opposition representation is not necessary for the parliament to function normally, others—perhaps including President Aliiev—understand that a parliament without opposition members is ruinous for Azerbaijan's image. New elections are slated in 11 districts, and perhaps President Aliiev is hoping to tempt some opposition parties to abandon their boycott by offering a few more seats. Whether opposition parties, which are bitterly divided, will participate or eventually agree to take up their deputies' mandates remains to be seen.

What is clearer from the conduct of the election and its outcome is that President Aliiev, who is preparing the succession of his son as Azerbaijan's next president, was determined to keep opposition leaders out of parliament and ensure that the body as a whole is supportive of his heir. If the only way to guarantee the desired outcome was wholesale vote fraud, so be it. Prognoses of possible accommodation with the opposition, or possibly even some power sharing arrangements, to facilitate a smooth and peaceful transfer of power, have proved unfounded. Indeed, President Aliiev reportedly has told the new UK Ambassador to Baku that Azerbaijan does not need to join the Council of Europe, indicating that he is not prepared to make any concessions when it comes to maintaining his grip on power and passing it on to his chosen heir, whatever the international community thinks.

Even more worrisome is that by depriving the opposition of the possibility to contend for power through parliamentary means, Aliiev has seriously reduced the chances of a "soft landing" in Azerbaijan. When he eventually leaves the scene, anything could happen. This is not only a frightening prospect for the citizens of Azerbaijan, its neighbors and hopes for resolving regional disputes, especially the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict—it is a scenario that should alarm policymakers in Washington as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to say "I told you so" to those colleagues who argued against my resolution. I would much have preferred to make a statement congratulating Azerbaijan on having held exemplary elections and making substantial steps towards democratization. Alas, I cannot do so, which should sadden and concern all of us. But I fear the consequences will be far more serious for the citizens of Azerbaijan.

NEW YORK'S HEALTHY START CONSORTIUM HELPS REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I praise the outstanding work of New York's Healthy Start Consortium. Healthy Start/NYC (HS/NYC), a collaborative, community-driven, Federal project was founded in 1991 to combat infant mortality and poor maternal and child health in three medically underserved areas. New York neighborhoods like Bedford-

Stuyvesant, Mott Haven and Central Harlem have some of the Nation's highest infant mortality and poverty rates. From 1991 to 1997, HS/NYC served 30,000 women and their families annually which lead to a 40 percent decrease in the infant mortality rate, a drop in low birth weights and a 24 percent decline in births to teens.

The Consortium has been able to create a strong public-private network of health and social service agencies, providers, schools, churches, businesses, and individuals. It has remained committed to its community-driven, collaborative approach. I want to particularly commend the work of Ngozi Moses with the Brooklyn Perinatal Network; Arlene Bailey-Franklin with the Bronx Perinatal Consortium; Sharon Rumley with the Queens Comprehensive Perinatal Council; Goldie Watkins-Bryant with Healthy Start/New York City Project; Luci Chambers, with Downstate New York Healthy Start Project; Mario Drummonds, with Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership; Cheryl Brown-Hoyte with Nassau County's Healthy Start Project and Dara Cerwonka with Suffolk County Perinatal Coalition.

Now that the Healthy Start Program has been reauthorized, I look forward to working with the Healthy Start/New York City Consortium in the months ahead. The Consortium hopes to broaden its work with consumers. I am certain that the Consortium will be able to bring new families into its program during the next fiscal year. Once again, I offer my congratulations to the Consortium on a job well done.

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2000

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague, the late Henry B. Gonzalez, who died on November 28, 2000, and who served the House and the Nation for 37 years as one of its most revered public servants. To his family, his wife Bertha, his son CHARLIE who now serves in the House as our colleague, and to all of his constituents in the 20th District in Texas, I extend my most sincere condolences. My prayers are with all of you in the hope of giving comfort against the grief of your great loss.

What to say about Henry B., as he was affectionately known in his San Antonio Congressional District. In the House, Henry B. was known as a fierce activist for the poor and for minorities in the field of housing, small business, community development, and consumer fairness. He was an unbridled advocate for what he believed was right for his constituents and the Nation.

For Members like me, he was a friend, a mentor and an educator—because without his knowledge and willingness to share, many of us who did not have the privilege or opportunity to serve with him on the Banking and Housing Committee would not have known

what was going on, or how to resolve the problems facing the Nation—from affordable housing to community development to salvaging the savings and loan industry, naming only a few of his many struggles to secure the American dream for all Americans.

From the beginning of his adult life, Henry B. was on fire to help his people and his State and his country. A feisty first-ever Mexican-American to serve in the State Legislature, he was also the first to be selected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1963—and in both jobs he went about kicking down ethnic barriers, facing civil rights issues with searing defiance that meant a 36 hour filibuster in the Texas State Senate, defeating 16 segregationist bills, to punching out a restaurant patron in the 1970's for calling him a "communist." When an apology was demanded, Henry B. said only that he was sorry he had pulled the punch.

During his 37 years in the House of Representatives, Henry B. Gonzalez spoke out for the people—all people—on behalf of the needs of the working poor—long before it was popular to do so. He held in his hand the day of his swearing in as a Member of this House a bill to abolish the Poll Tax which was eventually enacted, and he never stopped working against all kinds of discrimination against the poor and the disenfranchised in our country.

And so we say goodbye to Henry Gonzalez, knowing that the rich, the poor, the powerful, the disadvantaged, the young and the old, are better off than they would have otherwise been without his caring and compassion, and without the fire in his heart and the courage of his convictions as a public servant that left so much good in its wake—enough to last a lifetime.

We celebrate the life of Henry B. Gonzalez, who served under eight presidents and became a legend in his own time, by conferring upon him the titles of statesman, warrior, pioneer, patriot, hero and a national treasure. We also remember him as funny, brilliant, a maverick, and a coalition builder who lived his life and served his people with exuberant ardor. Most of all he was genuine, and he was honest to a fault.

But Henry B. Gonzalez said it best: "I have never failed myself, and I have never failed you."

He provided the opportunity for all of us to follow in his footsteps, and none more so than his beloved son, the gentleman from Texas, CHARLIE GONZALEZ, our colleague now serving the 20th District of Texas, and I again extend to him and his family my heartfelt sorrow and tell them, Henry B. will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ADDRESSING THE FLU VACCINE SHORTAGE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, influenza is a serious illness that afflicts millions of Americans each year. While most Americans recover after a few days, influenza causes

thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the elderly. Fortunately, vaccination can prevent a person from becoming infected with influenza.

Influenza vaccines are developed each year because the flu virus naturally mutates and changes. This year's strain of flu vaccine has been a particularly difficult strain to produce for all manufacturers, and as a result, there are lower than normal yields. Although we expect there will be sufficient vaccines for this year, there has been a delay in releasing vaccines to the public.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended vaccinations first be given to individuals who are at particularly high risk for developing complications. This group includes individuals who are 65 years or older, people who suffer from chronic illnesses, individuals in nursing homes, children who are undergoing long-term aspirin therapy, and pregnant women.

Ninety percent of vaccines are distributed by private sector distributors for use by health care providers. This resolution urges these private sector distributors to follow the CDC's recommendations to ensure that those at highest risk for influenza complications be given priority in receiving their vaccine.

H. RES. —

Whereas influenza is a contagious viral infection that affects the respiratory tract;

Whereas people of any age can become infected with influenza;

Whereas, although most people who become infected with influenza recover within a few days, some people develop serious complications that can become life-threatening;

Whereas influenza causes thousands of deaths each year, mostly among the elderly;

Whereas vaccination can prevent a person from becoming infected with influenza;

Whereas the periodic mutation of the influenza virus requires the influenza vaccine to be annually updated to contain the most recent influenza virus strains;

Whereas a lower-than-expected yield of one of the components of this season's influenza vaccine has caused the distribution of the vaccine to be delayed;

Whereas the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working closely with vaccine manufacturers to facilitate the availability of a safe and effective influenza vaccine for this influenza season;

Whereas temporary shortages of the influenza vaccine early in this influenza season may require decisions to be made regarding how to prioritize the use of the available vaccine;

Whereas the vaccine available early in this influenza season should be used to maximize the protection of people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection;

Whereas the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the groups of people at a high

(1) people who are 65 and older;

(2) residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities that house people who have chronic medical conditions;

(3) people who have chronic disorders of the pulmonary or cardiovascular systems, including asthma;

(4) people who have had required medical follow up or hospitalization during the past

year because of chronic metabolic disease, kidney dysfunction, blood disorders, or immunosuppression;

(5) children and teenagers who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy; and

(6) women who will be in the second or third trimester of pregnancy during the influenza season;

Whereas all influenza vaccine used in the United States is produced in the private sector, and 90 percent of that vaccine is distributed by private-sector distributors for use by health care providers;

Whereas reports have indicated that certain distributors of the influenza vaccine are taking advantage of the influenza vaccine shortage by raising their prices by as much as 500 percent;

Whereas distributors are first supplying those buyers willing to pay the highest price for the influenza vaccine, even when those buyers were the last to order;

Whereas, for example, although the Director of the California Department of Health Services contracted with a distributor in February to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$17.99 per vial and has received only one third of the order, the Director of the Maine Division of Disease Control contracted with that same distributor in June and July to purchase influenza vaccine at a cost of \$39.00 per vial and received both shipments within two months; and

Whereas distributors are in a unique position to make vaccines available first to facilities serving people at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection, such as nursing homes, hospitals, and doctors offices: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the private-sector distributors of the influenza vaccine should make all reasonable efforts to ensure that, during any shortage of the influenza vaccine, priority is given to distributing the available vaccine to those groups of people identified by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being at a high risk of developing complications from an influenza infection.

TRIBUTE TO SIDNEY YATES

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, on October 5, our country lost a great patriot, Sid Yates. Sid was my very dear friend, and a beloved federal representative, who preserved and protected our country's finest cultural resources and historical landmarks.

For nearly a half of a century, Sid served in the House of Representatives. I was fortunate enough to have served with him for more than 25 years. He was a true gentleman and distinguished politician who brought honor and dignity to the U.S. House of Representatives.

It was a very sad day when Sid announced he would not run for reelection. I know the House of Representatives meant a great deal to him, and it was very hard for Sid to leave a place that he loved. Personally, I missed him greatly. It always made my day when he returned to Capitol Hill for a visit. I was saddened by his passing and he will be greatly missed by those of us who worked beside him, and the nation as a whole.

Many people remember Sid as a tremendous advocate of the arts, but I will always remember him as a master of the art of politics. Sid loved serving as a deputy in the Democratic Whip organization. So much so that for well over twenty years, Sid served as a deputy whip, while championing the causes of the Democratic Party.

Not only was Sid a great politician, but he was also a genuine and caring person. He worked hard behind the scenes to help individual members shepherd their projects through the legislative process, but he was always certain to give the credit to others. Although a giant in the House, Sid would always make it a point to take of the little things without any kind of fanfare. For instance, every Thursday, after our Democratic Whip meetings, Sid would always make sure to bring back muffins or Danish to his staff. Although in the grand scheme of things this small token of thoughtfulness was probably lost on most Members, I believe it spoke volumes on the kind of person Sid Yates was.

While I will always remember Sid as a wonderful and caring person, I can't overlook how hard he worked to make our country a beautiful and cultural place to live. As Chairman of the coveted Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, he fought tirelessly to protect free expression of the arts, and to preserve funding for national parks, historical landmarks, and national seashores. He was a true believer in the benefits of the arts and historical landmarks.

My hometown of Boston had benefited greatly from his generosity and dedication to preserving historical landmarks. Over the years, Sid supported vital federal funding for Boston's Freedom Trail, a wonderful walking tour through the City of Boston that provides a historical review of the many famous Revolutionary War sites including the African Meeting House, Dorchester Heights, and the Old South Meeting House.

Thanks to Sid's work with the Freedom Trail, tourists can visit the famed Old North Church, where Paul Revere hung two lanterns warning citizens of Boston that the British were coming by sea; or Faneuil Hall, where colonists met to protect British rule; and many other revolutionary war sites.

As an appropriations committee cardinal, Sid was also helpful in providing funds to preserve Boston's 31 harbor islands, which are rich with historical and geological treasures. Because of Sid's support, visitors will soon be able to take a ferry to many of these remarkable islands, which have been inaccessible for years. Sid's commitment to the preservation of the harbor islands will provide plenty of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Boston. The City of Boston is a better place to visit thanks to the kindness and wisdom of Sid Yates.

Just as the lanterns at Old North Church shone brightly to guide the patriots in their fight for independence, Sid Yates' commitment and dedication to the arts and humanities was a guiding light for all Americans. While his light has faded, his legacy will endure because of his devotion to preserving our country's historical landmarks and cultural resources. Just like Paul Revere, Sid Yates was a great patriot.